

LATE MICHAEL NATHANIEL

OBITUARY

GREEK It is indeed very difficult to reflect in words one's feelings and history of a very fruitful, successful and happy life as lived by our Beloved Friend, Michael.

He left his parents as a young boy at the age of 19 and came to South Africa in 1939 - ¹⁷58 years in a country he adopted as his second homeland and a country which he treasured, loved and respected. South Africa not only gave to him, but he gave to South Africa.

Yet we all know that he loved and treasured his Place of Birth, Cyprus.

After a number of years, starting in Mayfair, Benoni and then moving to Alberton in 1941 - where he has remained ever since and will be permanently resting at the Alberton Cemetery - he went on to become a corner stone in the commercial life of our town, a stalwart of our Hellenic Community and the Cyprus Community, as well as the Society of his village **Lysos**, of which he was always fond and proud of.

GREEK A man who treasured and practised strong family principles, started off by not neglecting his parents - it was only hours before his passing away that he said to me: "I earned 6 pounds a month when I first came to this country, but yet I managed to send my parents 3 pounds a month". My reply to him was: "Mike, that is why you have the Blessing of your parents" and he said "Thank you".

His love and respect went further. He brought out all his brothers and sisters to South Africa, for them to make a better life from the then poverty stricken Cyprus.

GREEK He, in no uncertain terms, was the Patriarch of his family and practised **the** much accepted and respected principles that we have in Hellenic family life.

In 1955 he married Despo and together they lived a happy life and shared their life not only with their three wonderful ^{Mama} children, Christina and Thrasso, Harry and Maggie, Marina and Dino and their grandchildren - but with all their friends and acquaintances.

GREEK He instilled and practised the Faith of Orthodox Christianity, showed his family how to share it with others and with him and their mother. He created the much admired family structure that Hellenism sought after, namely a Patriarchal family - His stature commanded such respect **by all**.

MICHAEL, we are here to admire and respect you for what you have done - to pay tribute to you and to thank your wonderful wife and children, for always being with you and sharing with you. This helped create a wonderful man whose love and company the rest of us were able to enjoy.

He was a pioneer in many respects in his entrepreneurial career. Having started off by running two roadhouses and a number of cafe's in Alberton, he then went on to open Radio Electric in Third Avenue Alberton in the 50's and practised his much beloved hobby, which became a career for a while, radio electronics.

It was here, that he was able to once again, provide Hellenism in South Africa, with gramophone records of their much beloved music - something which could not be obtained in the country in those years.

He then went into property development and was extremely successful in all that he undertook.

He did not confine himself only to his family and business, but he shared a lot with Society - both Hellenic and others.

He was the one who offered his cinema as a meeting place, when the Hellenic Community of Alberton was revived on 22 September 1963. He went on to become our first Vice President and in 1972, became Honorary Life Vice President. He did not cease to support his Community after his retirement from the Committee.

An incident I so clearly recall - at the Stone Laying Ceremony of our Church - he and his family were on vacation in Cyprus at the time. Whilst delivering my speech, a telegram received the last minute was put into my hands by his brother, which read: **"Peter, I donate all the seating for the Church. Thank you, all the success, Regards, Michael"**.

In 1974, with the Cyprus Invasion, Michael played his part. He arranged a special Hellenic cinema show to collect funds for the Cyprus cause. Needless to say, his cinema - Libertas Theatre, was packed out and as a result of this, we managed to collect and provide thousands and thousands of blankets for the needy in Cyprus. This was achieved because he pained for his people.

When called upon, when SAHETI needed financial assistance, he dug his hand deep into his pocket.

A man who mixed with all walks of life. A man who enabled, through his personal friendship with our then State President Mr Marais Viljoen, to allow the Hellenic Community of Alberton to establish very strong ties with the President.

All of us who have had to do with him, whether it was the brief 'hello' in the Street, the sharing of a drink, the sharing of a holiday - the warmth and sincerity was to be found. Principles were there. His disagreement was to the point but never to bear animosity and grievance. Always a forgiving and helpful man. A man at all times respected, loved and supported by his wife Despo.

GREEK **MICHAEL**, we are going to miss you, but those of us who were always able to share those long chats, exchange of views, have benefited. We have benefited from your charisma and the way you expressed yourself. We, all of us, were indeed most privileged and honoured to have you as a relative, a friend. We thank you and may the Good Lord embrace you and let you Rest in Peace.

GREEK Together, we ask our Lord, that may the soil that is going to cover you - be light. **FOREVER YOUR MEMORY, MICHAEL ADIEU.**

P. S. ...

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